

**EAST GREENWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 5, 2006 SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

**East Greenwich High School Auditorium, 300 Avenger Drive**

**ANY ITEMS CONSIDERED BY SCHOOL COMMITTEE MAY BE SUBJECT TO A VOTE**

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Sue Cienki at 7:00p.m. The following members were present: William Day, Mary Ellen Winters, Susan Records, JeanAnn Guliano, and Anne Palumbo. Mrs. Friedemann was absent.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

**3. Student Council Liaison Report**

Sarah Roy spoke about the recent Air Band which was a great success. She noted that six digital projectors were purchased by Student Council for the high school as well as lighting boards and frames for art classes. Sarah also mentioned that the A period class that brings in the most food for holiday baskets gets a prize.

**4. Public Comments**

Mr. Paul Martin, former School Committee member, congratulated the new School Committee and wished them luck. He stated that the most important goal for the Committee is a retreat in January or February. He added that an achievement of the Bradley Committee was the sports recognitions night. He also feels that the Committee should use former members as a resource.

## **5. New Business**

### **5.1 Parental Leaves**

**On a motion made by Mr. Day and seconded by Mrs. Palumbo the Committee voted unanimously to approve the following parental leaves:**

**5.1.1 Jennifer Foisy, Special Education Teacher at Hanaford School, from February 12, 2007 until the end of the 06-07 school year.**

**5.1.2 Kathleen Hook, Spanish Teacher at EGHS and Cole from February 1, 2007 until the end of the 06-07 school year**

### **5.2 Appointment**

**On a motion made by Mrs. Palumbo and seconded by Mrs. Records, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the following appointment:**

**5.2.1 Robyn Kasparian, paraprofessional at Meadowbrook Farms School, effective Monday, November 27, 2006.**

### **5.3 Leave of Absence**

**On a motion made by Mrs. Winters and seconded by Mr. Day, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the following leave of absence:**

**5.3.1 Claudia Smith, paraprofessional at Meadowbrook Farms School, from January 2, 2007 to April 13, 2007**

## **6. Presentation by Gerald N. Tirozzi, Executive Director of National Association of Secondary School Principals**

**There was no presentation.**

## **7. High School Program of Studies Changes for 2007-2008**

**Mr. Michael Levine, High School Principal, gave a power point presentation on the changes for the 07-08 program of studies. He noted that the visual and performing art mandates can be met outside the school. Mr. Levine noted that the state requires only 20 credits, but he wants to offer students as much as he can to give East Greenwich a competitive edge. Mrs. Records wanted to know if we are going to be able to keep up with the computer industry changes. Mr. Levine stated that those changes will be eased in over a few years.**

**Regarding the TV production class, Mrs. Palumbo asked if will there be alternatives it doesn't go through. Mr. Levine responded that Mr. Doucette researched the program in other systems.**

**He also noted that the state is mandating certain things and he will present a budget that is reasonable although the school needs to move forward. He feels there will be a small increase in staff because of new course offerings, although district-wide, staff will have to be reduced. Mrs. Cienki stated it is difficult for the School Committee to look at new course offerings and not think about the tight budget. She asked Mr. Levine to embrace all areas of the community to think of alternative financing. Mrs. Records asked if Math and English courses were aligned with assessment tests. Mr. Levine responded that if the curriculum is aligned correctly, all students will be able to pass the tests. Mrs. Cienki noted that for the Video Production course, English teachers in Barrington videotape students and use it**

for their senior project. It's a very valuable tool. Mrs. Guliano stated that we should look into the cost of renting the video equipment versus buying. Mr. Levine stated that they may ask Cox Communications to donate it. Mrs. Cienki asked to have the Department Heads present at the January 9 meeting on the Program of Studies vote.

#### **8. Out-of-State Trip to Italy and Greece for June 2007**

Mr. Day made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Records to approve the above trip. It was noted that there should be one chaperone for every six students and the bus driver and tour guide would not qualify as chaperones. Mrs. Wardwell, the advisor, stated that this trip was planned by students last year, and she will keep the Committee updated about the chaperones. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **9. First Reading of Retention Policy**

It was noted that this replaces the existing policy. Mrs. Palumbo stated that the information she has given out to School Committee should be looked at prior to modifying the current policy. She believes in prevention and intervention before retention. Mrs. Palumbo feels that the dropout rate will go higher and we need to make accommodations for students to succeed. Mr. Meyers feels that we should mention our Response to Intervention policy in the

policy. Mrs. Guliano stated that the name of the policy sounds negative and promotion with intervention is effective according to the

research. She also noted that it concerns her on a legal basis regarding IDEA because the parent doesn't have the final say with this policy. We should look at best practices and research.

Mrs. Winters stated that we had a Pre1 class and it was a great tool and an extra year for kids. Mrs. Palumbo would like to be a part of the committee to re-write the policy.

#### **10. FY 2008 Budget: Establish Goals and Priorities**

Mr. Meyers gave his goals and objectives. Mrs. Guliano stated that it should include long-range capital planning as a goal.

**11. School Committee Representatives for the following areas were finalized:**

**Facilities Committee-Mary Ellen Winters**

**Finance Committee-JeanAnn Guliano**

**Wellness Committee-Chair, Anne Palumbo**

**Southern Rhode Island Collaborative (SORICO)-Susan Records**

Mrs. Palumbo would like to ask the Wellness Committee to amend the present policy to add a mental health and behavioral component.

#### **12. Adjourn**

On a motion made by Mr. Day and seconded by Mrs. Palumbo, the Committee voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:55p.m.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Virginia Giuliani**